

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 OIC-04 IO-14 COA-02

DLOS-06 INT-08 EB-11 DRC-01 /151 W

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O 171715Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2828

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BELIZE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 2138

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR EFIS PINT GT BH OAS

SUBJECT: BELIZEAN PLANS TO ENFORCE FISHING LAWS

REF: BELIZE 210, GUATEMALA 2117

1. UPON RECEIPT REFTEL WE CONSIDERED POSSIBILITY OF INFORMING FONMIN ARENALES OF BELIZEAN INTENTIONS ON AN INFORMAL LOW-KEY BASIS. WE HAVE DECIDED AGAINST IT BECAUSE AT THIS JUNCTURE DOING SO IS MORE LIKELY TO CAUSE GUATEMALA TO SEND PATROL BOATS TO BACK UP ITS FISHERMEN THAN TO ASK THE FISHERMEN TO STAY AWAY. IF GUATEMALAN BOATS ARE SEIZED, THERE IS SOME CHANCE THAT GOG WOULD TRY TO KEEP ISSUE OUT OF PRESS AND SIMPLY BAIL FISHERMEN OUT AS IT HAS IN THE PAST RATHER THAN REACT STRONGLY. FACT THAT FISHERMEN WERE CAUGHT MIGHT THEN INDUCE OTHERS TO LAY LOW WITHOUT BEING ASKED TO DO SO BY GOG.

2. GUATEMALA REACTION TO BELIZEAN SEIZURES IS ALMOST SURE TO BE THAT THIS IS A DELIBERATE PROVOCATION COMING RIGHT AT START OF OASGA. ACTION AND STATEMENTS OF CARIBBEAN COMMONWEALTH NATIONS RE BELIZE QUESTION IN GENERAL AT OASGA COULD WELL INFLUENCE GUATEMALAN REACTION TO POSSIBLE SEIZURES.

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 17 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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